

# WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Second Annual  
Legislative Report  
December, 2006

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### I. RECOMMENDATIONS

Second Report to the Legislature .....	3
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### II. ACTIVITIES

Background .....	4
January Meeting .....	5
April Meeting .....	6
June Meeting .....	8
December Meeting .....	11

### III. APPENDICES

Appendix A: LYAC Members by Term and Legislative District .....	13
Appendix B: Hometowns of members .....	14
Appendix C: Enacting Legislation .....	15
Appendix D: Final Bill Report, SB 5254 .....	19

## I. RECOMMENDATIONS

This is the second required report to the Legislature regarding LYAC activities and recommendations. The Council is required to report by December 1 each year. Due to a staffing shortage the report is a little behind schedule.

LYAC has four pieces of legislation to propose for the 2007 session. They will also monitor bills that are related to youth during session and advise the legislature accordingly.

LYAC is currently looking for sponsors for three bills they have had drafted by the Code Reviser's office in October. The topics of these bill drafts include:

- Requiring common school academic classes to begin no earlier than 8:30 a.m.
- Authorizing voting by sixteen and seventeen year olds.
- Changing high school graduation requirements

In addition to these three bills, they have been working with Senator McAuliffe and Representative Upthegrove on a bill that would affect LYAC directly by:

- Removing the sunset clause
- Adding legislators to the council
- Allowing the council to raise funds from grants and donations
- Changing the age requirement from 14 years to 12 years.

Senator McAuliffe and Representative Upthegrove have agreed to each sponsor a companion bill for LYAC.

## II. ACTIVITIES BACKGROUND

In response to petitions from children and adults seeking a way for youth to be directly involved with legislation that concerns them, the 2005 Legislature passed Senate Bill 5254 establishing a Legislative Youth Advisory Council (LYAC).

The Council is established until June 20, 2007 to examine issues of importance to youth and advise the Legislature on these issues and related legislation. Issues include, but are not limited to: “education, employment, strategies to increase youth participation in state and municipal government, safe environments for youth, substance abuse, emotional and physical health, foster care, poverty, homelessness, and youth access to services on a statewide and municipal basis.”

The twenty-two member council, comprised of students ages fourteen to eighteen, deliberates and advises legislators on issues important to youth in Washington State. SB 5242 outlines the council’s duties as follows:

- a) Advising the Legislature on proposed and pending legislation, including state budget expenditures and policy matters relating to youth;
- b) Advising the standing committees of the Legislature and study commissions, committees and task forces regarding issues relating to youth;
- c) Conducting periodic seminars for its members regarding leadership, government, and the Legislature; and
- d) Reporting annually by December 1 to the Legislature on its activities, including proposed legislation that implements recommendations of the council.

The council may meet between three and six times yearly, and hold up to two public hearings on issues of importance to youth, in addition to its educational seminars for its members. This council is only the third in the United States (similar groups exist in Maine and New Mexico).

In 2006 one half of the council members were assigned one year terms and the other half were assigned two year terms. Replacement members have been assigned by the caucuses to fill the expired terms of the one year members. The new members will serve until July 1, 2008 or until the council bill sunsets July 1, 2007.

## JANUARY 2006 MEETING – Kate Berry, Chair

The group met at the capital early in the session. They sat in on the Senate Floor Debate.

Later during the morning the students met with Senators Pridemore, Esser, and McAuliffe. They also had Representative Lovick join them for a while. Students asked questions about LYAC, WASL, how to best work with Members, and what the members would like to see from LYAC.

During the working lunch they discuss the WASL further and also ideas about a bill to remove the sunset clause and change the age limit for LYAC members. They then broke into three groups to have a more focused discussion:

- One group wrote a resolution favoring LYAC which they later presented to the Legislature
- The second group wrote a press release about LYAC
- The third group began preparing background on LYAC's stand on the WASL.

They announced the new email address for LYAC.

## APRIL 2006 MEETING – Chair Kate Berry

LYAC began by review previous meetings and discussed how to work best as a group, how to communicate between meetings, and how to get work done between meetings.

They had an extensive discussion on the structure of LYAC including;

- How to structure meetings and make them productive
- How to get more people involved (including other youth groups)
- Holding public hearings
- How to do research on issues and educate themselves and others
- Clarify what LYAC does and how to continue past the sunset date

To address the issue of meeting structure they decided to:

- Brainstorm ideas
- Organize those ideas
- Identify 2-3 key points
- Make a plan to address what they want to do

To address the issue of involvement they decided to:

- Find groups that have similar goals
- Consider a town Hall meeting
- Contact Legislators to get their input about other groups they may be involved with
- Network with other existing groups (in and out of state)
- Compile a list of contacts by June 1
- Begin contacting other groups to request their input
- Prepare a brochure (3 members worked on this)
- Get a webpage up and running – [www.LYAC.leg.wa.gov](http://www.LYAC.leg.wa.gov)
- Design an application for students to apply to be on LYAC – now on the website
  - Suggested that LYAC forward applications to members with their recommendations

To address the issue of Public Hearings, the group decided that they were not prepared enough at this time to do that. They felt their energy was better served in learning the process and trying other methods of getting input first.

To address the issue of research and education:

- Planned to prepare a survey to send out to students around the state
- Planned to have legislators attend meetings and share information
- Planned to be more active on their inter-LYAC forum and keep each other up on issues

To address the issue of clarifying LYAC and getting the sunset removed they:

- Decided that they must be productive and active to show they are involved and productive to youth and the legislative
- Planned to talk to legislators about sponsorship

- Decided to look at ways to financially support themselves and provide staff support – whether through the state budget or through private funding (or a combination of both)
- Had a spirited debate about changing the age limit from 14 to 12 (or 10)

The group set out some legislative goals for the next session including: WASL, sex education, history education, and the LYAC bill. They planned to work on getting input before deciding on topics for potential legislation.

JUNE 2006 MEETING – Chair Kate Berry

LYAC began the meeting with a leadership development exercise on listening and appreciative inquiry.

### **Listening Exercise**

They chose topic to talk about: music, hobby, vacation, family experience, weekend and then listened for 3 minutes without talking or making any judgment in your body language. They were assigned to truly listen in the interest of knowing about the other person and then were asked: “Was this hard? Did you have the urge to speak? Why? Did the other person feel heard? If you interjected, did the other person have to delay their thoughts or wait to finish their story for what you had to say? Is it possible to feel truly heard when this happens?”

### **Appreciative Inquiry**

**Appreciative** (being thankful, increasing) **Inquiry** (questions, interrogation)

They told a story about a time things went really well (between youth and adult) and then asked: “How did you feel? Who was there? Unique? Cool?”

The group brainstormed issues of possible interest for LYAC:

### ***Health and Fitness***

- Not a real desire
- Hard to plan, organize (UP-2, school board)
- Not an issue

### ***Sex Education***

- Can be waived
- Up to parents to decide whether or not their children can take it
- Different around state
- Important, but opinions vary
- Contraceptives
- Not resolved

### ***Standardized Test Reform***

- Revising
- Districts give other tests
- Gear toward SAT rather than WASL
- Hard to move on in Legislature
- Wide issue

### ***Education Reform***

- Bill proposed by Upthegrove
- Our input next session?
- Will be reissued next session



## ***More Funding for Public Education***

- This is a budget year
- School in debt
- Programs being cut
- Important topic for all
- Programs of importance:
  - Statewide: Arts (fine) music, drama, art
  - Set district-wide: teacher salaries (check into funding for teachers)

## ***School Safety***

- Security?

## ***LYAC BILL***

### ***Lower Age Limit to 12***

- Lack of maturity
- Have gov't education
- Irrelevant topics to younger people
- Limits effectiveness
- Provides different view points

### ***Membership***

Explanation/introduction by Judi

### ***Remove Sunset Clause***

- Completely remove
- LYAC proposes to omit the sunset clause

### ***Membership Criteria***

1. meeting attendance record
2. age
3. location (out of state college/university)
4. level of interest and activity

LYAC decided a good way to get input from youth around the state is to devise a survey requesting input. Survey issues/logistics included:

- Three pages of questions
- Rating of proposals
- Looking at survey tools like surveymonkey.com to send survey to youth groups, schools
- Asking each member to put together a list of friends to survey
- Members received the list of possible survey questions and were asked to rate them and return the info to the Chair by July 1.
- They created a time line for approval and distribution of the survey.
- Needed to check with the Senate about funds for the survey instrument.

In addition, they decided in order to create ongoing recognition and interest in LYAC and keeping youth involved, they decided to:

- Create a database of interested students.
- Create brochures to distribute. The design and publishing was to be done by the LYAC members themselves.

Representative Dave Upthegrove joined the group and spoke to them about how to get involved in the process and be effective as an advisory group. He described the bill process briefly and explained the key points in the process that LYAC needs to keep in mind and address. He also said he would help the group by sponsoring a bill to remove the sunset clause. He also made some suggestions about how to work with the Legislature that included:

- Don't try to focus on too many issues. Decide what is important and do a good job with that.
- Communicate with members and let them know you are here and interested in participating in the process.
- Reach out to other Youth organizations
- LYAC Official Email was established [lyac@leg.wa.gov](mailto:lyac@leg.wa.gov)
- LYAC Communication Email for Council Members and Staff was established: [washingtonlyac@googlegroups.com](mailto:washingtonlyac@googlegroups.com)

LYAC then addressed the issue of who in the group has a one-year term and who has a two- year term. The House had determined who would be a one year term and who would be a two year term but the Senate left it up to LYAC. The group decided that for the Senate the criteria should be based on:

- Who is still in the correct age range
- Who will be leaving the state for college
- Who has been actually attending meetings and who hasn't
- Who has expressed an interest in continuing and who said they weren't interested.

In addition, LYAC designed an application and had it put on-line so others could apply to the Legislature or the Governor's office for a position. Young people are encouraged to write and share their concerns and suggestions with the group through the website.

Between meetings LYAC Chair , Kate Berry and Alex Jonlin were invited to go with Legislative Staff to a meeting of NCSL to discuss LYAC with legislators and staff from other states. Though there are three states with a Youth Advisory Council, Washington's LYAC did the presentation because they had the most experience of those present. They covered the history, organization, goals, and working relationship with the legislature. They asked to have other states please keep in contact and offered to answer questions if other states consider setting up a group.

## DECEMBER 2 MEETING – Kate Berry Chair

LYAC welcomed the new members attending for the first time. Carmen, Phil, Mori, Brady and Anne immediately became active in the group.

Brad Burnham, Evergreen MPA student, presented his ideas to LYAC about how he might be able to help the group. He's considering writing his masters' thesis based on the question, "Is it feasible to apply youth council models in Washington." He's considering the possibility of using surveys & focus groups to collect data.

The group began working on the bills they had sent to be drafted in the fall and the LYAC bill.

1. **"THE LYAC Bill"** – Has two prime sponsors: Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe (chair of Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee) & Rep. Dave Upthegrove. They are continuing to work on finding co-sponsors and to develop a strategy for working for this bill (see LEGISLATIVE DAY). This bill in its present form would:
  - keep LYAC from expiring (and remove sunset clause)
  - change eligibility from 14-18 to 12-18 yr olds
  - change the way members are appointed & make all appointments 2 years
  - allow LYAC to solicit & accept grants & donations
  - request funds for staffing??
2. **"Smart Start Time for School Bill"** – NO SPONSOR YET! This would require schools to begin no earlier than 8:30 AM. The group decided to look into similar bills previously introduced in the Legislature. (see SB 6537 (sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Fraser, Thibaudeau, Schmidt, Franklin, Keiser & Jacobsen) from the 03-04 biennium.)
3. **"Voting for civically-engaged 16 & 17 year olds Bill"** – NO SPONSOR YET! This would allow 16 & 17 year olds to submit provisional ballots in all elections that would be counted if less than 80 % of all eligible voters (18+) show up to vote. Phil volunteered to meet with the Secretary of State's Office as well as the Pierce County Auditor to discuss this issue further and look for potential allies and opposition to this bill. (see HB 2305 & HJR 4213 from the 05-06 biennium sponsored by Representatives Hunt, Williams, Green and Haigh.)
4. **"No WASL requirement Bill"** – NO SPONSOR YET! This would eliminate the WASL as a high school graduation requirement. (see SB 6620 from the 05-06 biennium, sponsored by Senators Rasmussen, Pridemore and Benton.)

They had a good discussion on how to find sponsors for bills and decided:

- Find out which legislators sit on the committees to which you anticipate the bills will be sent (i.e. WASL requirement elimination will probably be sent to the Early Learning, K-12 Education Committee).

- Ask members what their legislative priorities are.
- Try to get the chair of the committee AND the ranking minority member to sponsor the bill.
- Remember to give legislators the full picture about your bill. Make sure they know who might oppose the bill, how much it will cost, and any other effects the bill might have.
- Calling legislators:
  - Everyone was assigned one or more legislative districts to contact. Be sure you contact both Reps & the Senator.
  - The goals of this phone conversation are to:
    1. Inform the legislator and/or their assistant about the upcoming LYAC bills. Make sure they realize LYAC is in jeopardy of being “sun-setted.”
    2. Build or work on existing rapport with offices.
    3. Find potential sponsors for bills.
    4. Let them know you’ll be contacting them later in session to schedule a meeting about the bills.

#### Legislative AdvisingDay:

They didn’t have a chance to discuss this much, but the general idea is that they will have a day during session that LYAC members (and maybe other students?) will come down to Olympia to meet with legislators. Marley Resch, Spokane, is heading this up, and she’ll have help from both Jodi Fickett w/ Sen. McAuliffe & Rachel Smith w/ Rep. Upthegrove.

#### Mock Committee Hearing & Bill Tracking

Randi Schaff from Senate Committee Services discussed the procedures involved with testifying before a committee. She quickly led the group through a mock committee hearing.

### **III. APPENDICES**

#### **APPENDIX A: LYAC MEMBERS BY TERM AND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT LYAC Members with Terms Expiring July 1, 2006**

James Arnold  
Amanda Brown  
Garrett Brummel  
Jamica Henderson  
Alma Herrera-Mendoza  
Josh Jones  
Shala Kiewert  
Yvonne Leow  
Paris Malik  
Gretchen Swanson  
Claudine Wall

#### **LYAC Members with Terms Expiring July 1, 2007**

Zack Alexander  
Morgan Bader  
Kate Berry  
TJ Best  
Adam Dalglish  
Brandon Granado  
Lila Hart  
Andrew Hoge  
Ankur Jain  
Leta Lawhead  
Marlena Resch

Ex Officio Member – Alex Jonlin

#### **Newest Appointed Members with Terms Expiring July 1, 2008**

Kani Bazrafshan  
Phil Gardner  
Nathan Haugen  
Anne Jun  
Randyn Robert Morris  
Carolina Placencia  
Mori Rothman  
Brady Sheroshek  
Carmen Tubbesing  
Kathryn Vanderboll

## **APPENDIX B:**

### **Home town and District of Members**

Bellevue – Dist 41  
Bothell – Dist 1  
Camano Island – Dist 10  
Carson – Dist 15  
Deer Park – Dist 7  
Issaquah – Dist 5  
Longview – Dist 19  
Marysville – Dist 38  
Mercer Island – Dist 41  
Oak Harbor – Dist 10  
Redmond – Dist 45  
Redmond – Dist 48  
Seattle – Dist 37  
Seattle – Dist 46  
Spokane – Dist 3  
Spokane - Dist 6  
Tacoma – Dist 27  
University Place – Dist 28  
Woodinville – Dist 45  
Woodinville – Dist 45  
Yakima – Dist 14

**APPENDIX C :  
ENACTING LEGISLATION**

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SENATE BILL 5254

59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 18, 2005 CERTIFICATE

YEAS 34 NAYS 13

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of  
the Senate of the State of

Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is SENATE BILL 5254

President of the Senate as passed by the Senate and the  
House of Representatives on the

Passed by the House April 13, 2005 dates hereon set forth. YEAS 53 NAYS 43

Speaker of the House of Representatives Secretary

Approved FILED

Secretary of State State of Washington

Governor of the State of Washington

SENATE BILL 5254

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2005 Regular Session

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Rasmussen, Franklin, McAuliffe and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/19/2005. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to a legislative youth advisory council; and adding  
2 a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislative youth advisory council is established to  
7 examine issues of importance to youth, including but not limited to  
8 education, employment, strategies to increase youth participation in

9 state and municipal government, safe environments for youth, substance  
10 abuse, emotional and physical health, foster care, poverty,  
11 homelessness, and youth access to services on a statewide and municipal  
12 basis.

13 (2) The council consists of twenty-two members as provided in this  
14 subsection who, at the time of appointment, are aged fourteen to  
15 eighteen. The council shall select a chair from among its members.

16 (a) Five members shall be selected by each of the two major  
17 caucuses in the senate, appointed by the secretary of the senate.

18 (b) Five members shall be selected by each of the two major

p. 1 SB 5254.PL



1 caucuses in the house of representatives, appointed by the chief clerk  
2 of the house of representatives.

3 (c) The governor shall appoint two members.

4 (3) Except for initial members, members shall serve two-year terms,  
5 and if eligible, may be reappointed for subsequent two-year terms.

6 One-half of the initial members shall be appointed to one-year terms,  
7 and these appointments shall be made in such a way as to preserve  
8 overall representation on the committee.

9 (4) The council shall have the following duties:

10 (a) Advising the legislature on proposed and pending legislation,  
11 including state budget expenditures and policy matters relating to  
12 youth;

13 (b) Advising the standing committees of the legislature and study  
14 commissions, committees, and task forces regarding issues relating to  
15 youth;

16 (c) Conducting periodic seminars for its members regarding  
17 leadership, government, and the legislature; and

18 (d) Reporting annually by December 1 to the legislature on its  
19 activities, including proposed legislation that implements  
20 recommendations of the council.

21 (5) In carrying out its duties under subsection (4) of this  
22 section, the council may meet at least three times but not more than  
23 six times per year, including not more than two public hearings on  
24 issues of importance to youth.

25 (6) Members shall be reimbursed as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and  
26 43.03.060.

27 (7) The office of superintendent of public instruction shall  
28 provide administration, coordination, and facilitation assistance to  
29 the council. The senate and house of representatives may provide  
30 policy and fiscal briefings and assistance with drafting proposed  
31 legislation. The senate and the house of representatives shall each  
32 develop internal policies relating to staff assistance provided to the  
33 council. Such policies may include applicable internal personnel and  
34 practices guidelines, resource use and expense reimbursement  
35 guidelines, and applicable ethics mandates. Provision of funds,  
36 resources, and staff, as well as the assignment and direction of staff,  
37 remains at all times within the sole discretion of the chamber making  
38 the provision.

SB 5254.PL p. 2

1 (8) The office of superintendent of public instruction, the

2 legislature, any agency of the legislature, and any official or  
3 employee of such office or agency are immune from liability for any  
4 injury that is incurred by or caused by a member of the youth advisory  
5 council and that occurs while the member of the council is performing  
6 duties of the council or is otherwise engaged in activities or  
7 receiving services for which reimbursement is allowed under subsection  
8 (6) of this section. The immunity provided by this subsection does not  
9 apply to an injury intentionally caused by the act or omission of an  
10 employee or official of the superintendent of public instruction or the  
11 legislature or any agency of the legislature.  
12 (9) This section expires June 30, 2007.

--- END --

p. 3 SB 5254.PL

**APPENDIX D:**  
**FINAL BILL REPORT, SB 5254**

FINAL BILL REPORT  
SB 5254

C 355 L 05

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Creating the legislative youth advisory council.

Sponsors: Senators Jacobsen, Rasmussen, Franklin, McAuliffe and Kohl-Welles.

Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections  
House Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability

Background: Approximately three hundred children and adults have petitioned the legislature to provide a way for youth to be directly involved with legislation that concerns them.

Summary: A legislative youth advisory council is established until June 30, 2007 to examine issues important to youth and advise the legislature on these issues and related legislation.

The council has twenty-two members between the ages of fourteen and eighteen. Each of the two major caucuses in the Senate and House of Representatives appoints five of the members, and the Governor appoints two. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction administers the council. The Senate and the House may provide briefings and help with drafting legislation and must adopt policies about providing staff assistance, resources, and funding.

The council can meet between three and six times a year, hold up to two public hearings, and conduct educational seminars for its members. It must report annually on its activities and any recommendations for legislation.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate 41 7  
House 53 43 (House amended)  
Senate 34 13 (Senate concurred)

Effective: July 24, 2005

Senate Bill Report -1 -SB 5254